

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action

FWP proposes to accept a fee title land donation, trail easement and conservation easement from the Montana Power company of approximately 3,500 Acres on the north shore of the Missouri River. The Trail and Conservation Easement land is part of the sale of the Montana Power Company's hydroelectric facilities to Pennsylvania Power and Light. MPC would like to donate these easements to FWP. With this donation comes some obligation to manage these lands for recreation, manage and maintain the area in cooperation with the landowner to achieve both our recreation, preservation and cultural goals.

The Fee Title donation is of approximately 500 acres of land including 6 acres which compose the old Morony Townsite, and includes the Morony clubhouse/apartment building. Key features of this land are the townsite, the Sulphur Springs and over 1.5 miles of Missouri River Frontage. There are several site potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, not including the Clubhouse which has not been assessed for its eligibility.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action

FWP has authority to provide development and access for public recreation.
23-2-101 MCA.

3. Name of Project

MPC North Shore Land Donation, Trail and Conservation Easements.

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)

FWP - Parks Division
P.O. Box 6610
Great Falls MT 59406

Montana Power Company
40 East Broadway
Butte MT 59707

(406)454-5840

(406)888-2669

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date 12/15/98

Estimated Completion Date 3/1/98.

Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 40%

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)

Cascade County: Portions of Sec 33, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24, R4E, T21N.

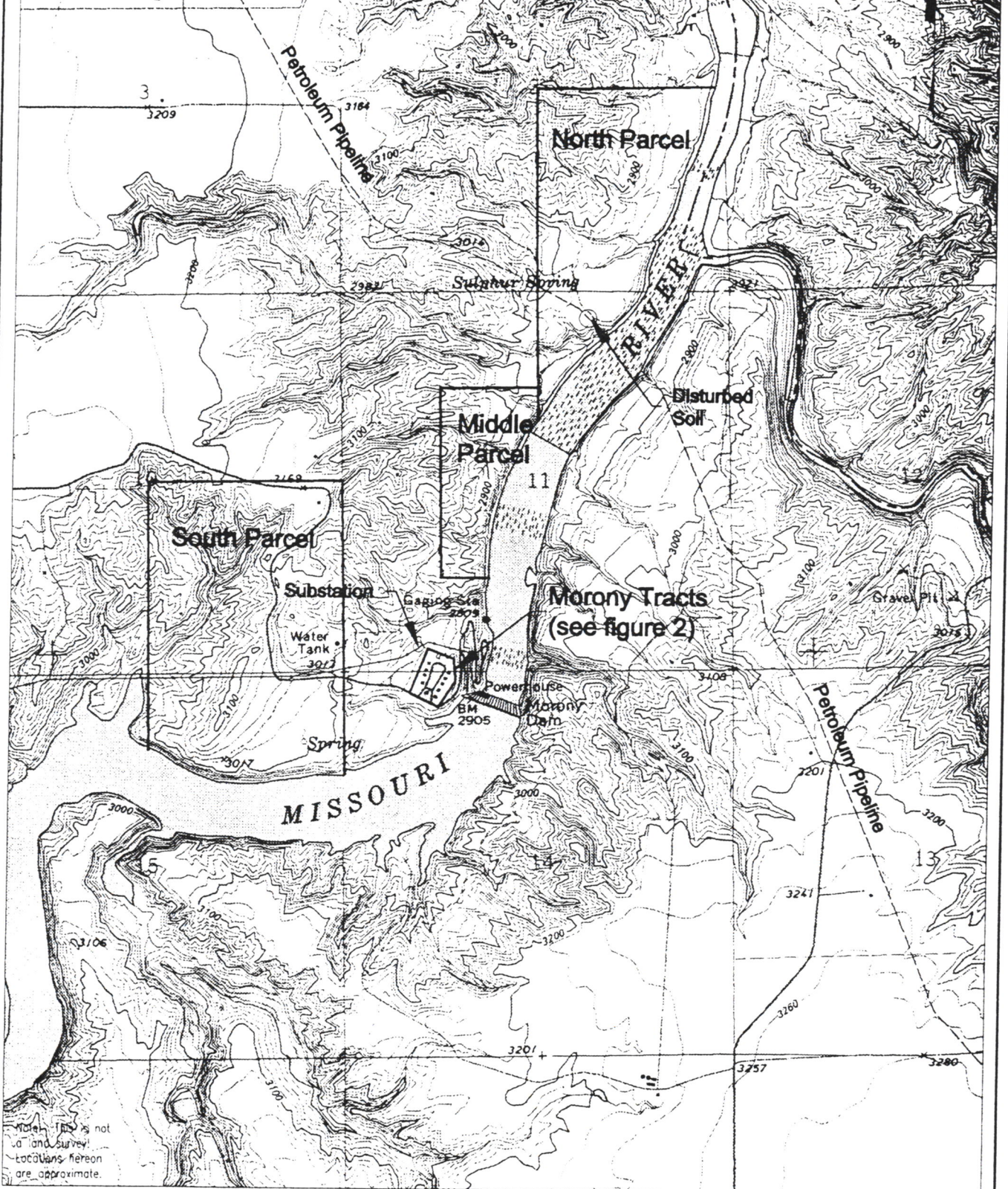
Portions of Sec 30, 19, 18, 17, 16, 21, 15, 14, 10, 11, 2, T21N, R5E.

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a)	Developed:	
	residential	<u>6</u> acres
	industrial	<u>0</u> acres
(b)	Open Space/Woodlands/Recreation	<u>3494</u> acres
(c)	Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u> acres
(d)	Floodplain	<u>0</u> acres
(e)	Productive:	
	irrigated cropland <u>0</u> dry cropland	<u>0</u> acres
	forestry	<u>0</u> acres
	rangeland	<u>0</u> acres
	other	<u>0</u> acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

Morony Dam Area Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment



LAND & WATER CONSULTING, INC.
P.O. BOX 8254
Missoula, MT 59807

PROJECT NO: E98-158

PROJECT MANAGER: C. Vandam

DRAWN BY: MB

DATE: Nov 98

SCALE: 1"=2000'

CHECKED:

LOCATION: Morony Dam

FILENAME: vicinity

FIGURE: 1

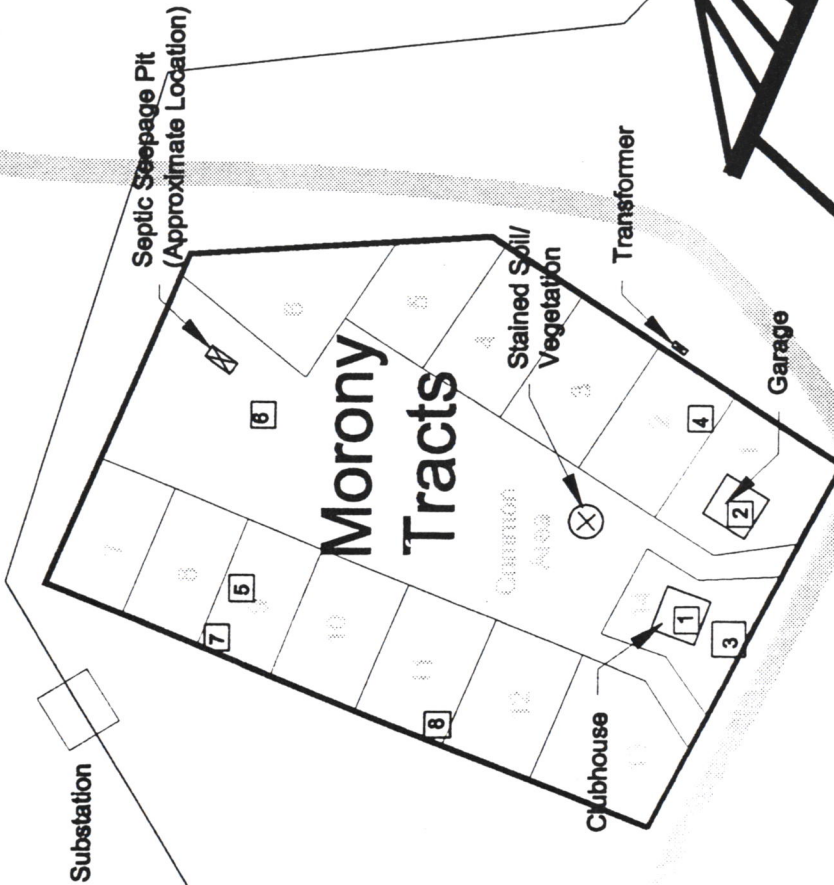
PROJECT NAME:

Morony Dam Area Phase 1

DRAWING TITLE:

Vicinity Map

Morony Dam Area Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment



Remaining Structures (see section 2.3)

Note: This is not a land survey!
Locations hereon are approximate.

LAND & WATER CONSULTING, INC. P.O. BOX 8284 Missoula, MT 59807	PROJECT NO: E98-158 PROJECT MANAGER: C. Vandam DRAWN BY: MB	DATE: Nov 98 SCALE: 1"=200' CHECKED:	LOCATION: Morony Dam FILENAME: siteplan FIGURE: 2	PROJECT NAME: Morony Dam Phase 1 DRAWING TITLE: Morony Tracts
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9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

Conservation Easement.

The primary benefit of this Conservation Easement is to protect the North Shore of the Missouri from additional development in perpetuity. This will protect the viewshed of Giant Springs State Park and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center from additional intrusive development not related to power generation or transportation.

MPC has a budget for capital development, operations and maintenance associated with the reissuing of the license and management of the facilities proposed for the North Shore. FWP is anticipated to manage this area for its recreational values but regardless of who is responsible for management of these lands the state desires to keep the area free of intrusive development.

Other benefits include increased tourism opportunities and their associated economic benefits, potential non-motorized recreational access on MPC lands and wildlife habitat benefits.

Trail Easement

The trail easement will assure non-motorized trail access for the River's Edge trail system on the North Shore. This will provide benefits of an extended trail system to the residents of Cascade County and their visitors. The existing River's Edge Trail has use of over 100,000 people per year and trail use is steadily rising. Trail usage on the North Shore is unknown but expected to be approximately 5,000 - 15,000 trail users per year.

Land Donation

The land donation is an outright donation of over 500 acres of land with associated improvements. There is an apartment building, garage, potential camping pads, and roads on a 6 acre parcel. The benefits to the public include recreational access to a over 1.5 mile section of river front, trail access to Sulphur Springs, perpetual cultural protection of this historically important area, tourism opportunities for those interested in a historic, primitive hiking experience and likelihood of increased camping opportunities in an area with few public camping facilities.

All of these actions will need to be coordinated with the new landowner and FWP to assure equitable access while protecting the landowner's rights to manage this property. A necessary additional document will be the cooperative recreational management plan which will delineate the rights and responsibilities of each party and establish partnerships for management and maintenance of these properties.

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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None

(b) Funding:

<u>Montana Power Company</u>	<u>100%</u>
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(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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None

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

FWP Region 4 - Parks, Fisheries, Wildlife and Enforcement Divisions, Great Falls MT

FWP Lands Office - Helena MT

Montana Power Company, Butte MT

State Historic Preservation Office, Helena MT

Lewis and Clark National Forest, Great Falls MT

Bureau of Land Management, Great Falls MT

Recreational Trails Incorporated, Great Falls MT

American Public Land Exchange - Missoula MT

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
► a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
► c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant	
	► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X			
	b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X			
	c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X			
	d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X			
	e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X			
	f. Other _____		X			

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u>	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				a
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. The landowner will maintain responsibility for all Noxious Weed Control efforts on all lands other than those immediately adjacent to the proposed developments which are strictly recreational in nature. Recreational developments which are also used as power generation service facilities will remain the responsibility of the Power Company.

FWP will take over all weed control activities on the donated fee title lands.

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

☆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

☆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

► 5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?			X			a
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?			X			a
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?				X		b
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other: _____			X			c

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. Increased recreational use of this land may have an effect on local populations of both game and non-game species. General recreation may have an effect on nesting of both game and non-game birds while local populations of deer and predators may have increased hunting pressure.
- b. Hunting pressure is anticipated to increase and local populations may fluctuate in response. Long term wildlife impacts should be positive due to protection of habitat.

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u>	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Will the proposed action result in:	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant	
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?			X			
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?			X			
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?			X			
e. Other: _____			X			

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of, or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?			X			a
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. An unknown amount of recreational activity already takes place on these lands through permission of the residents of the MPC Power generation facilities. These activities will need to adapt to the restrictions placed on the land by both the donation and the easements. This activity is not large and will result in only minor impacts. This use will not prohibit the proposed action.

The Missouri River Shooters Assn. currently runs a shooting range on the easement property. FWP does not wish to disturb their operation until viable alternative shooting locations can be obtained either by their search or by ours. If a suitable location can be found this operation will cease. As this has been the policy of the Montana Power Company since the inception of the MRSA lease this is not a significant impact.

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◆ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?				X		a
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)			X			b
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. The apartment building on the Morony Dam Townsite land will need remediation in order to become usable to the public. Hazmat issues exist with asbestos ceiling tiles and non-potable water supplies as examples. These issues will take significant funding to remediate. An estimate of the cost of removal for the asbestos alone is \$15,000 for full removal. There is currently no funding for this remediation.
- b. The use of agrichemical pesticides to control noxious weeds is accepted and desired. All herbicides will be applied in accordance with the Region Four Noxious Weed Management Plan and under the supervision of a licenced pesticide applicator. Storage and mixing of these chemicals will be in accordance with standard operating procedures listed on labels and in the Weed Plan.

☆ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?			X			a
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			b
f. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. The land donation and easement is designed to eliminate residential and industrial development of this area while providing for recreational access to this area.
- b. Increased recreational use may lead to improvement needs to the existing roads, and parking areas. Most or all of the on-site improvements are included in the FERC relicensing project. When FWP is officially chosen as the cooperating managing agency on the conservation easement lands a full environmental assessment will be written to assess the impacts of the recreational plan and developments.

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Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

▼ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT [⊙]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊙]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊙]	None	Minor [⊙]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____				X		a
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources				X		b
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs.				X		c
g. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. The effect of this Land donation, trail easement, and conservation easement will have very minor impacts. When FWP becomes responsible for managing the conservation easement lands for recreation then increased governmental services will be needed. Montana Power and FERC have recognized this and have provided funding to pay for an increased level of service. Service roads into the general area may need a higher level of maintenance in the future and major improvement is likely. Funding for this is dependant on many factors and will need to be addressed in a cooperative manner with city, county, state and private concerns all contributing.

The Fee title lands will be managed by FWP in a manner consistent with existing State Park policy.

- b. Project Capital revenues for the FERC relicensing projects are provided by the Power Company. These revenues are earmarked for the following projects. North Shore Natural Area - \$20,000; Trail - \$150,000; Sulphur springs Trailhead - \$100,000; Black Eagle/Rainbow reservoir access sites - \$500,000. This totals \$770,000 in one time capital development money.

Project operations and maintenance revenues for the FERC relicensing projects are provided by the Power Company. These revenues are earmarked for the following projects. North Shore Natural area - \$5,000;

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Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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Trail - \$5,000; Sulphur Springs Trailhead - \$10,000; Black Eagle/Rainbow reservoir access sites - \$10,000; Morony River Access Site - \$5,000. Total this comes to \$35,000 annually.

Both of these revenue commitments by the power Company are in 1992 dollars and will be adjusted for inflation to current levels.

- c. Maintenance costs will run approximately \$ 17,000. On-going major maintenance may be slightly higher.

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- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [☆]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [☆]	Comment Index
	Unknown [☆]	None	Minor [☆]	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
►c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational or tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)				X		a
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. This land donation and conservation easement in and of itself will have a negligible effect on tourism, however the management of this land as recreational will have a positive effect on tourism in Great Falls.

The lands protected by the easement and land donation are those trod by Captain Meriwether Lewis on June 14 & 15, 1805 when he first "discovered" the Great Falls of the Missouri. Lewis and Clark tourism is expected to increase significantly in the next 10 years* and few places on the L&C Trail offer the ability to experience the land as the explorers first saw it. This land, while altered significantly, does offer views and landscapes very similar to those viewed by L&C.

* The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center showed visitation of 80,000 during its first six months of operation. The Bureau of Land Management reports an increase of 30% on the Wild and Scenic Missouri River. Much of this increase is attributable to interest in Lewis and Clark. (personal contact with Jane Weber - Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Clark Whitehead - BLM Recreation Manager Lewistown MT)

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Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT [⊙]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊙]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊙]	None	Minor [⊙]	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
▶a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?	X					a
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?	X					
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. The lands and buildings of the Morony Townsite are currently inadequately inventoried and cataloged. FWP will follow the procedures of the Montana Antiquities Act as well as the FWP Cultural Resource rules to establish the historical importance of these resources and will contact the State Historical Preservation Office for recommendations..

- ⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ⊙ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ✓ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT [⊙]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊙]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊙]	None	Minor [⊙]	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)				X		a
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				b
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				c
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- a. This action must be viewed as a continuation of the FERC relicensing process. In the Relicensing Environmental Impact Statement many people were consulted and the recreational development were suggested. The conveyance of this conservation easement is above and beyond the requirements of the relicensing. This is a donation of considerable value which will protect these lands and make them available to the public in perpetuity.
- b. Again taking the long view, this is an extension the FERC relicensing process. The future recreational developments will have a significant effect on the use of these lands. These developments are mitigation measures for certain aspects of running the hydroelectric generation facilities on the Missouri. Both the Montana Power Company and FERC have recognized the impacts and have provided funding for most of the development and maintenance of those developments.
- c. The conservation easement is unlikely to generate much controversy.

⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

No Action.

Without action FWP will not accept this easement or land donation. MPC may elect to withdraw the proposal from consideration or it may offer the proposal to another party.

Project as proposed.

The preferred alternative. This option gives FWP a land donation and perpetual trail and conservation easements which will significantly protect thousands of acres of lands that are adjacent to the Missouri River North of Giant Springs State Park. If developed to industrial or residential use these lands will have a tremendous impact on the Park's viewshed and will significantly reduce the values that the park has tried to maintain over the last 25

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

No mitigation is necessary.

3. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EIS is not required.

With no anticipated significant impacts to the environment or the public the EA is the appropriate level of analysis.

4. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

A public comment period of 31 days will be held. This period will begin Friday December 18, 1998 and continue to Monday, January 18, 1999. All comments must be received by FWP by 5:00 Monday January 18, 1999.

5. Duration of comment period if any.

31 days

6. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Dan Smith
Parks Operation Specialist
P.O. Box 6610
Great Falls, MT. 59406 (406)454-5840.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- ⚙ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ▼ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

With no impacts to the environment is FWP's recommendation that this project proceed as quickly as possible.

This easement has been discussed in a forum consisting of representatives of the City of Great Falls, the US Forest Service, Recreation Trails Inc, and other civic organizations. The consensus was that one agency should accept the lands and easement and that FWP is the logical choice to both hold the easement and manage the recreational improvements.

If managed as part of Giant Springs State Park this land donation, Trail and conservations easements coupled with a cooperative management agreement would increase the size of Giant Springs by 7 times. This degree of protection by donation is unprecedented in Montana State Park history but is reflective of the relationship that Montana Power has fostered in the past with Montana State Parks especially at Giant Springs.

Great Falls has developed a variety of recreational facilities in the recent past including major developments at Giant Springs with the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and River Edge Trail, developments at Ulm Pishkun State Park and its new visitor center. These facilities are themed toward western culture and discovery of new aspects of those cultures. A piece that is missing is the natural world and the discovery of what drove all of our cultural roots into this land. The North Shore lands, properly managed can help people understand Native Americans, early explorers and homesteader pioneers by allowing them to walk on the ground that these forerunners trod upon, and to see what they saw. Protecting this land will provide a primitive experience in relatively natural landscapes.

This area can provide a part of the recreation spectrum which is currently missing in the Great Falls Area. It bridges the gap formed by the relatively heavy recreational development of Great Falls and the relatively sparse development of the Wild and Scenic Missouri. When taken together these opportunities provide a full range of recreational activities within a hours drive of Great Falls.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ▼ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.